



AIA Florida

Our country and our industry are facing dire challenges. As architects, we have a responsibility to contribute to the welfare of all communities and cities.

The killing of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd highlight the continued injustice, distrust, inequity, and indifference that exists in our country. While I am extremely proud to lead AIA Florida, and I believe we have made tremendous strides in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion - we can and must do more.

At times like this, if we are not advocates for people that need a voice, we become part of the problem. Within our AIA community, we must work to increase the profession's diversity and have the courage to challenge racism and fight systemic bias.

Our future depends on it. Now is not the time to be silent.

I call on all AIA Florida Chapters to be communities that unite through shared goals of understanding, inclusion, and absolute rejection of injustice. Together, we can build a better more equitable place of social and economic prosperity now and for generations to come.

AIA Florida is compiling a list of equity and inclusion activities in Florida replicable in your communities. The list is not exhaustive, and we are committed to advancing those activities. For immediate action, consider donating to the [Architects Foundation Diversity Advancement Scholarship](#) and view [the National Organization of Minority Architects' newly issued BRAVE statement](#).

Stephen Panzarino, AIA
2020 AIA Florida President